



## Message from Roger Phillips, SKYlight Chair

SKYlight is stepping into its sixth year of operations and after achieving so much in a short space of time already, we are excited about the next phase of our development, continually exploring opportunities to support the people and communities of Stockport and further afield. Some of the highlights achieved during 2023/24 include:

- With fellow housing partners, supporting almost 6000 people with complex needs and vulnerabilities across GM over the life of the Motiv8 programme, with 2171 people moving into employment, education, training or job searching
- Creating over 20 apprenticeship opportunities across Stockport Homes Group
- Saving over £180,000 for members of the five Your Local Pantry stores, giving local residents access to affordable food items, creating a sustainable and long-term solution to food poverty, and providing over 4100 hours of volunteering opportunities for people
- Supporting 412 households in need through the Furniture Recycling Project, diverting over 42 tonnes of items away from landfill
- Responded to 670 reports of rough sleeping, providing responsive and tailored support including the provision of accommodation through the GM Housing First Programme and the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme
- Providing 478 school holiday club placements over five school holidays for secondary school aged children, and delivering Mental Toughness courses to 71 young people across a range of schools

- Providing a £50K SKYlight Community Fund with awards of up to 2K available to community groups, small charities and social enterprise projects which deliver projects and activities which improve neighbourhoods and make a difference to the community
- Providing dedicated support workers helping hundreds of vulnerable people struggling with mental health, families at risk of Domestic Violence and at risk of exploitation

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. We work closely with others in the Third Sector in Stockport and Greater Manchester and other GM housing providers to further our shared aims. In the last year alone, SKYlight supported local communities and civic society groups in Stockport to secure over £636K in grant income.

We're an organisation that is growing, and we need help to support that growth through the strategic leadership on our Board. We are keen to encourage applications from those who have a passion to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable people.

You will have knowledge and experience relevant to SKYlight and/or you may be a senior professional or specialist with an understanding of charity finance or governance of charitable organisations. Having 'lived experience' of the services offered by SKYlight or Stockport Homes Group is also sought.

We have a fantastic Board who are very passionate about SKYlight and the wider Stockport Homes Group. These individuals bring with them a wide range of knowledge and experience, and we want to add to this. We are looking for new Board Members who can contribute fully to that team, working collaboratively with us whilst offering your own ideas.

Applications should be made online at  
[www.stockporthomes.org](http://www.stockporthomes.org)

Closing date  
**31 May 2024**

If you have any questions about the role please contact Rachel Cossey, Governance Manager

 **0161 474 2850**

 **[governance@stockporthomes.org](mailto:governance@stockporthomes.org)**

# About SKylight

SKylight, established in 2018, is a Charitable Community Benefit Society and a subsidiary of Stockport Homes Group.

SKylight has four broad key Aims stated in its governing document, and activity is structured and prioritised to deliver against these Aims:

- Supporting people into employment, relieving poverty, relieving food poverty and developing digital skills,
- Supporting customers in local communities and delivering support services to help people live independently,
- Empowering communities to develop networks of support, including targeted work with people who may experience disadvantage such as people with disabilities, from ethnic minority communities and those with complex needs,
- Working in partnership to reduce demand on statutory services; and supporting the development of the third sector, ensuring additional resources and services are secured.

The Aims of SKylight seek to address a wide range of disadvantages experienced by people living within the Borough of Stockport including:

- Economic disadvantage, particularly for those residents who live within social housing,
- Disadvantage which is specific to particular groups including people with disabilities, people from ethnic minority communities and those with complex needs,
- The difficulties people face in living independently and again recognises that customers with vulnerabilities tend to be concentrated in social and private rented sector housing.

The Aims also recognise the need to work in partnership with other third sector organisations in the Borough, harnessing the collective knowledge, experience and skills of organisations to secure additional resources and services, helping to reduce demand on stretched statutory services.

As well as being able to bid for new funding streams and tender opportunities as they arise, SKylight is responsible for a number of services which were originally established within Stockport Homes, and clearly align with its aims. This supports SKylight in establishing its identity and building a track record, whilst also enabling it to bid for funding that may otherwise have been unavailable. Services within SKylight's remit include Your Local Pantry, the Furniture Recycling Project, Youth Work and Skills & Employment.

SKylight continues to deliver its [Business Plan](#) that provides an ambitious framework to develop and grow over the coming years, delivering a range of services and outcomes which will benefit some of the most disadvantaged households in Stockport and Greater Manchester.



# Board Member role description

SKYlight Board Members are the organisation's Trustees.

## All Board Members/Trustees must comply with the six main duties of a Trustee

- Ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- Comply with your charity's governing document and the law
- Act in your charity's best interests
- Manage your charity's resources responsibly
- Act with reasonable care and skill
- Ensure your charity is accountable

## Board Members discharge these responsibilities through the SKYlight Board. The Board's main functions are to:

- Develop and support the Aims of SKYlight.
- Positively represent SKYlight and the Stockport Homes Group (SHG)
- Set and monitor performance against targets
- Satisfy itself that financial information is accurate and that financial controls and risk management systems are robust
- Approve annual budgets and audited annual accounts
- Protect the assets of the companies in SHG
- Ensure the company operates within the law and according to its rules.

## Board Members are also required to:

- Promote the Stockport Homes Group values and act in accordance with them at all times
- Prepare for and attend meetings, training and other events, minimum attendance levels of 80 per cent are required
- Focus on strategy rather than operational detail
- Maintain an understanding of the challenges facing the diverse communities that SHG serves
- Respect confidential information relating to the business and decisions
- Contribute to and share collective responsibility for decisions
- Challenge and support the SHG's staff
- Work cooperatively with fellow Board members, staff, and external stakeholders
- Keep up to date with local and national policy issues affecting SHG
- Comply with the SHG Board Member Code of Conduct



## SKYlight supports SHG's ability to achieve our mission of One Team Transforming Lives and it works in line with the values that inform the SHG's work. These are:

### **Ambition**

We have the ambition and courage to challenge; translating this into commercial success and brilliant outcomes for customers

### **Social Responsibility**

We always try to do the right thing; using our role as a service provider, employer and buyer to generate trust, build our communities and empower our people

### **Passion**

We have a passion for what we do; with positive, motivated and enthusiastic staff who enjoy their work

### **Innovation**

We are innovative in everything we do; with the agility, creativity and edge to keep defying expectations and deliver fresh and exciting things

### **Respect**

We treat each other with respect; supporting and inspiring one another and collaborating across teams and partnerships

### **Excellence**

We continually improve how we work; challenging the status quo, learning from what goes well and always being professional



For more information about Stockport Homes, visit the website [www.stockporthomes.org](http://www.stockporthomes.org)

## Desirable Experience

Board Members will be recruited according to their suitability, in line with the role description below. However, specific skills / experience in one or more of the following would be an advantage:

- Working in the charitable / voluntary sector
- Finance, tendering and business development
- Health & Wellbeing
- A customer of Stockport Homes and/or SKYlight

## Governance and Management Arrangements

The SKYlight Board meets four times per year. Meetings are usually held early on Monday evenings at the corporate offices, Cornerstone. Board Members are expected to attend the SKYlight Board Away Day and two Stockport Homes Group away days per year. Attendance at training events may also be required.

# Recruitment, Development and Appraisal

Board Members are recruited for the skills and experience they bring to the Boards of the Stockport Homes Group.

Stockport Homes Group expects you to give your best and will support you to be an excellent non-executive director. Board Members receive a full induction and ongoing training and support to help them in their roles.

**Board members are appraised at least every two years. You will be given the opportunity to critically discuss:**

- Performance of the Board as a whole
- Your performance and any development needs
- Performance of the company in supporting you; and
- The company's plans for the future.

## Equality and Diversity

Stockport Homes Group is passionate about inclusivity, both as a service provider and an employer. The SHG has an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy to take this commitment forward. It is underpinned by the conviction that diversity in leadership:

- Improves governance and risk management
- Improves decision making and problem solving
- Drives forward organisational performance

SKylight Board Members must actively promote the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion in their work for SKylight and SHG.

We are committed to ensuring our Boards represent the communities they serve and are particularly keen to hear from candidates from underrepresented groups including ethnic minorities, disabled people and those who are LGBTQ+.

## Expenses

SKylight Board Members are not remunerated, however out of pocket expenses will be covered.

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